

CONCORDIA



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



Concordia Parish

**Concordia Parish
Tourist Commission**
c/o Vidalia Welcome
Center
1401 Carter Street
Vidalia, LA 71373
318-336-7008

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
John Naponick, M.D.
Regional Administrator
Central Regional office
1500 Lee St.
Alexandria, LA 71301

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Alexandria, LA 71306-
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History¹

Concordia was founded January 6, 1810. Some claim that the first white man to visit Concordia was Hernando DeSoto in 1542. More than 100 years later, LaSalle conferred with the Tensas and Natchez Indian here. He called it "new paradise." The actual settlement of the parish did not come until much later. The first land grant was made to Jose Vidal by Governor-General de Lemos, who called it "New Concordia."

Gayerre', a noted historian, claims the name was inspired by the amicable agreement of "concord" arrived at by the Spaniard, Vidal, and the American authorities in Natchez for the mutual surrender of slaves. Others say it was named for Concord, the magnificent residence built in Natchez by Gov. Gayoso de Lemos. The mansion has since burned, but the stories of the lavish entertainment of the era continue to live.

Culture and Recreation³

Concordia parish, situated on the Mississippi River across from Natchez, is a "Sportsman's Paradise" which includes Lake St. John and Lake Concordia, a trophy bass lake. Wild game is abundant in Three Rivers and Red River State Wildlife Management Areas, and Bayou Cocodrie National Refuge. Experience country living with agricultural tours; cotton gins, pecan, catfish, miniature horse and ostrich farms. Tacony Plantation, rich in African-American history, celebrates the Jim Bowie Festival each September. Forty miles south of Vidalia, tour the Old River Control Structure and Hydroelectric Plant, where man attempts to control the mighty Mississippi. Ferriday has a museum showcasing its famous residents and musical heritage.



Parish Seat¹ Vidalia¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Vidalia
1990 4,953
1997 (estimate) 5,005

Parish Population²

1990 20,828
1997 (estimate) 20,742

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White 61%
African American 39%
Other 0%

Male	47%
Female	53%
Population age 0-4	7%
Population age 65 & over	13%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	65 ft.
Land area in square miles	696.4
Water area in square miles ⁴	52.4

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	67°
January	43°
July	81°
Annual average rainfall	71.2 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	8,190
Employed	7,200
Unemployed	990
Unemployment	12.0%

Agriculture¹

Cotton and soybeans.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

None

Public Libraries⁵ 3**Educational Attainment (1990)⁷**

Less than 5th grade	6.2%
High school graduate or higher	56.9%
Some college or higher	25.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher	9.1%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²**Private Employers**

Kelly's Kids Inc. (Children's clothing)	380
Wal-Mart (Retail)	85
Aluminum Company of America (Chemicals)	67

Public Employers

Concordia Parish School Board (Education)	735
Riverland Medical Center (Medical)	288
Concordia Electric Cooperative (Utility)	45

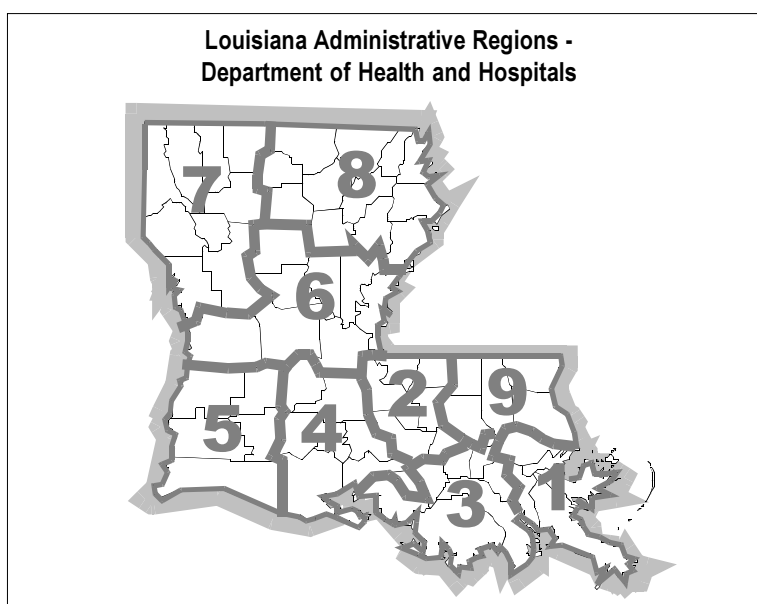
Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	27.8%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	39.0%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$15,621



References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington